TL1503-24

RIGHT OF REPLY
BY MR. HADI WAYARABI
INDONESIAN OBSERVER DELEGATION
ON ITEM 9
GENEVA, 24 AUGUST 1988

Mr. Chairman,

I have asked for the floor to respond to the allegations levelled against my country made by the representative of a certain NGO which calls itself "Liberation" under item 9 on Friday afternoon. My delegation appreciates the good intentions of Mr. Eide, the distinguished member of the Sub-Commission, who spoke yesterday seeking clarifications from my Government in order to have a balanced view on the alleged issue.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to save the precious time of the Sub-Commission, however, it is not the intention of my delegation to dwell again on the sad long story of my country's situation during the coup that took place in 1965 and the subsequent years, since we have had ample opportunity in the past to make our position clear on the issue. Nevertheless, my delegation stands ready to provide those who may still need more information surrounding the coup with written material.

On this occasion, I merely wish to touch upon a few points in connection with the allegations made particularly on the so-called "discrimination" against the former detainees. ~~In this connection,~~ I would like to stress that, as clearly stipulated in the 1945 Constitution, the Republic of Indonesia is a state based on Law, not one founded on arbitrary power. Therefore, the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens are fully guaranteed under the Constitution. Referring to some of the articles, I would like to state

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that articles 27, 28, 29 and 30 stipulate that every citizen has the right to work and to a living; freedom of association and assembly; and of expressing thoughts orally and in writing, in accordance with the prescribed statutes. Freedom to adhere to a religion and to perform the religious duties in conformity with that religion and that faith are also guaranteed in the aforementioned articles as well as the right to participate in the defence of the State .

With regard to the abortive coup, it should be noted that one cannot come to a proper understanding of the problem without taking into account the background of the Indonesian struggle for independence, the series of events preceding the coup and the social and political upheaval following it which seriously impeded national development and threatened the very survival of the State and Nation. It is important to emphasize that the 1965 coup ~~attempt~~ was actually the second that took place since Indonesian independence, preceded by the first in 1948 which was perpetrated by the same group of people. It is against this background that the Government and people of Indonesia are compelled to be ever vigilant and cautious to avoid the recurrence of such tragedies which have brought serious setbacks to the State and Nation as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

In dealing with the complex and sensitive problems arising out of the 1965 coup, the Indonesian Government has consistently adhered not only to the prevailing laws and regulations, but also to the humanitarian principles enshrined in its National Philosophy and Constitution.

As has been stated by my Government on previous occasions, within the framework of the overall solution of this problem, before the release of the former coup detainees, various preparations have been made for their benefit, among other things, to allow them to acquire certain technical skills. On the other hand, it is important to note

that the communities and the villages from which the detainees hail, have also been made ready in order to ensure the smooth reintegration of the ex-detainees in view of the sensitiveness of the problem. Ready in the sense that the communities truly share the feeling that despite their acts of treasons in the past, they also have similar responsibilities to participate in the country's development efforts as their other fellow citizens.

It is indeed a formidable task for the Indonesian Government, taking into account that Indonesia consists of hundreds of ethnical groups, dialects, traditions and religions. Although there are admittedly problems in reintegrating the ex-detainees into the society, the Indonesian Government consistently follows the persuasive approach in dealing with this matter.

At this juncture, I would like to inform the distinguished members of the Sub-Commission that all the ex-detainees, who have been released, have regained their rights and obligations as Indonesian citizens. They are now working either in the private or in the public sectors according to their professional capabilities, they have exercised their right to vote in the national general elections, the most recent of which was held in 1987. They are also entitled to the legal protection provided by the Law as any other Indonesian citizen. In short, Mr. Chairman, they enjoy rights to participate actively in the common endeavours to build a brighter future for all people throughout the country.

Mr. Chairman,

It is true that not all the ex-detainees have found employment. But there are many other Indonesians in a similar situation since the number of persons entering the labour market continues to increase, reaching at least 2 million every year. Considering the stage of Indonesia's development at present, there are difficulties in absorbing this large number of persons in employment. It is generally understood that the lack of job opportunities constitutes a serious problem, not only

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unique for Indonesia but also for developing countries in general and indeed, for certain developed countries as well.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, I wish to recall that the Representative of the NGO whom I referred to earlier left Indonesia over ten years ago and since then she has been engaging in a systematic campaign against Indonesia abroad. In February of this year she spoke before the 44th Session of the Commission on Human Rights to launch an attack against Indonesia on another subject. At that time she spoke on behalf of another NGO called "Women's International League of Peace and Freedom". I would not exclude the possibility that she will do the same again in the future, perhaps on behalf of another NGO.

On the basis of the foregoing, it is the firm view of my delegation that those allegations made by the representative of that NGO on Friday are grossly exaggerated and highly politically motivated .

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.